

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A microscope slide stainer, comprising:
 - a. a platform supporting a plurality of microscope slides, the
5 platform having a heated surface area, heated by a heater thereunder, the
heated surface area being in contact with and underlying a microscope
slide bearing a biological sample; and
 - b. a liquid dispenser that dispenses liquid reagents onto the slide
bearing the biological sample, said liquid dispenser being located above
10 said platform, said liquid dispenser and platform being adapted for
relative movement with respect to each other.
2. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a
plurality of heated surface areas.
3. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heated
15 surface area supports only one slide.
4. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3, wherein the platform
further comprises a slide support that has plural heated surface areas.
5. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 4, wherein the platform
comprises plural slide supports.
- 20 6. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a
resistive heating element underlying the heated surface area.

7. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a stationary liquid dispensing station, the platform being a moving platform adapted to index slides to the liquid dispensing station.

5 8. A method for processing biological samples mounted on microscope slides, comprising:

a. placing a microscope slide on a heated surface area of a platform, the surface area being heated by a heater thereunder and the platform being adapted to support a plurality of slides;

10 b. causing relative movement of a liquid dispenser and the platform with respect to each other so as to align the liquid dispenser over a microscope slide; and

c. dispensing liquid reagent from the liquid dispenser onto the slide.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the platform comprises a plurality of heated surface areas.

15 10. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the heated surface area supports only one slide.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein a slide support on the platform has plural heated surface areas.

20 12. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein plural slide supports are on the platform.

13. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the heated surface area is heated by an underlying resistive heating element.

14. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the liquid dispenser is positioned at a stationary liquid dispensing station, the platform being moved to index slides to the liquid dispensing station.